**Frequently asked questions on Refugee Resettlement Schemes in South Gloucestershire**

**How many refugees will be resettled?**

We have agreed with the Home Office to support at least three families a year in the UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS) and the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS),

**How much will this cost?**

The refugees arriving under these schemes are funded by the Home Office. This covers costs for providing caseworkers, housing, social care, health care, education and support to integrate into the community. Each case is managed according to needs. Our commissioned support providers are Southern Brooks Community Partnerships and Julian House. Both organisations are experienced in welcoming refugees and will ensure that families are encouraged to integrate into the local community and that adult family members find employment as soon as they can.

**Where will refugees be housed?**

All housing options will be considered. Housing Association properties will only be made available if the refugees meet the relevant ‘eligibility and qualification’ criteria. Support from private landlords is being sought. Detailed information about where refugee families will be housed will not be shared, to protect their privacy.

**How do you decide if refugees are genuine?**

In order to qualify for this scheme, people must have been accepted onto the Home Office resettlement schemes. They must either be,

* waiting for permanent resettlement in bridging accommodation in the UK run by the Home Office
* be living in refugee camps in the region and registered with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

All refugees nominated for resettlement in UK need to satisfy Home Office screening processes.

UNHCR undertake biometric testing, health assessments and case histories to confirm that individuals meet at least one of the criteria for resettlement in UK.

**Which countries are the refugees from?**

The refugees arriving under the Home Office scheme have been displaced from their homes as a result of the conflict in Syria and Afghanistan.

Since the UK government announced the expansion of the UK resettlement scheme, individuals and families may come from other areas of Africa, Middle East and Asia.

Refugees or asylum seekers that have travelled across Europe are not part of this scheme and so none will be coming from countries in the European Union.

**How long do refugees stay here?**

When the resettled refugees arrive, they are granted a humanitarian protection visa for three or five years. At the end of this period they can apply for permanent settlement in the UK or they can return to their home country.

**What has the council done previously?**

We have supported families to resettle and integrate in South Gloucestershire since the UK Resettlement Scheme in 2016 (previously known as the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme).

**What successes have there been?**

Refugees in South Gloucestershire have reported many personal successes including the completion of postgraduate degrees, completion of training and employment courses, learning to drive, as well as children successfully completing GCE exams and moving on to further education. We continue to support all family members to achieve the potential they have identified with their caseworkers.